

Important information about the NECAP Graduation Requirement

The purpose of this document is to clarify information regarding the 2014 graduation requirements, in particular the testing requirements and testing opportunities for students. Using the links provided below, you may access additional information about the requirements and opportunities.

*Students must meet **all** graduation requirements, 20 courses, 2 performance assessments, and the NECAP reading and mathematics tests in order to earn a high school diploma.*

The details of the requirements are provided in the Secondary Regulations, the Secondary Regulations Initial Guidance Document, and numerous other informational documents that can be accessed on the RIDE website at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/omp/secondary/default.aspx>. Students must successfully complete/meet all of the requirements in order to earn a RI High School Diploma. Be sure you know what the local graduation requirements are as they may extend beyond the minimum state requirements.

*Students can meet the NECAP testing graduation requirement by earning a score of 2 on their first attempt. On the second attempt students can score a 2 or **show progress** in his or her score.*

A student must earn a two on their first attempt at the NECAP to meet the graduation requirement. On subsequent attempts a student can meet the requirement by earning a 2 or by showing progress toward proficiency. Most students scoring a 1 on their 11th grade NECAP need to answer an additional 5-8 questions correct on their second attempt on the NECAP.

Students can meet the NECAP testing requirement by showing progress with an improved score on the second test attempt.

The secondary guidance (May 2011) includes the tables of scores that list the starting score and the score that a student must earn in order show the required level of growth or progress on the NECAP test. This guidance document was widely distributed and is available through the RIDE website. http://www.ride.ri.gov/omp/secondary/sec_regs.aspx.

Students have multiple opportunities to take the NECAP tests.

Students take the NECAP tests for the first time in the 11th grade. Students have the opportunity for two additional NECAP retakes in 12th grade, one full NECAP test version in the fall and a shorter version in the spring. The Secondary Guidance (May 2011) provides details about the multiple NECAP testing opportunities available to students.

Students may substitute scores from approved tests once they have taken the NECAP two times.

Students can meet the testing requirement with alternative tests approved for such purposes by RIDE. Students may take an approved alternative test after they take the NECAP tests in fall of 11th grade and fall of 12th grade. An initial list of the approved alternative tests and the minimum cut scores for each test are available at http://www.ride.ri.gov/omp/secondary/sec_regs.aspx. The scores on the alternative test(s) may be used in lieu of a student's NECAP scores.

The list will be updated on a yearly basis as needed. Teachers and administrators may submit other tests for consideration by following the simple protocol described in the alternative assessment document.

Accommodations are available to special education students and to other students during NECAP testing.

The RIDE NECAP Accommodations Guide provides details about the testing accommodations available to students during the NECAP tests. These accommodations include but are not limited to changes in response format, administration, setting, and the amount of time allowed for testing. Additionally, school accommodation teams may request other accommodations from RIDE prior to the testing administration period. Training materials and the guide are available at http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/necap_testadminmanuals.aspx.

Some English Language Learners (ELL) may be exempt from the NECAP graduation requirement.¹

According to RI Regulations (L-6-3-3.8e), ELLs who are **not** classified as having Limited Formal Schooling (LFS) or as Students with Interrupted Formal Schooling (SIFE) and who **have been** attending RI Public Schools for less than 4 years and who have low levels of English proficiency as demonstrated on the WAPT or ACCESS will not be held to using the NECAP as a graduation requirement. The Commissioner shall identify an alternative assessment or assessments appropriate to determine the academic proficiency for graduation purposes of English Language Learners that meet the above conditions.

There is a specific approved alternative test for English Language Learners who do not meet the required proficiency level on the NECAP reading test.

Students can meet the testing requirement with alternative tests approved for such purposes by RIDE. The approved tests include the ACCESS test. Student ACCESS scores may be used in lieu of their NECAP test scores must attain a minimum score of 405 overall on the 9-12 cluster or a score of 397 for Comprehension on the 9-12 cluster.

Students are held to the graduation requirements that were in place when they entered high school.

Students are responsible for meeting the graduation requirements that are in place when they enter high school whether or not they graduate in four years. In other words, a student who is in the graduating class of 2013 but repeats a grade(s) or remains in high schools beyond four years is not required to meet the 2014 graduation requirements. The only exception is when the graduation requirements are changed for an entire cohort of students.

¹ Please note that this exemption is for eligible ELLs and is limited to the use of the NECAP results for graduation requirements. ELL participation in the NECAP as a state assessment for the purposes of accountability is governed by federal requirements. More information can be found at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/ell.aspx>.